

DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

Intelligence Memorandum

Palestinian West Jordan

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
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INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

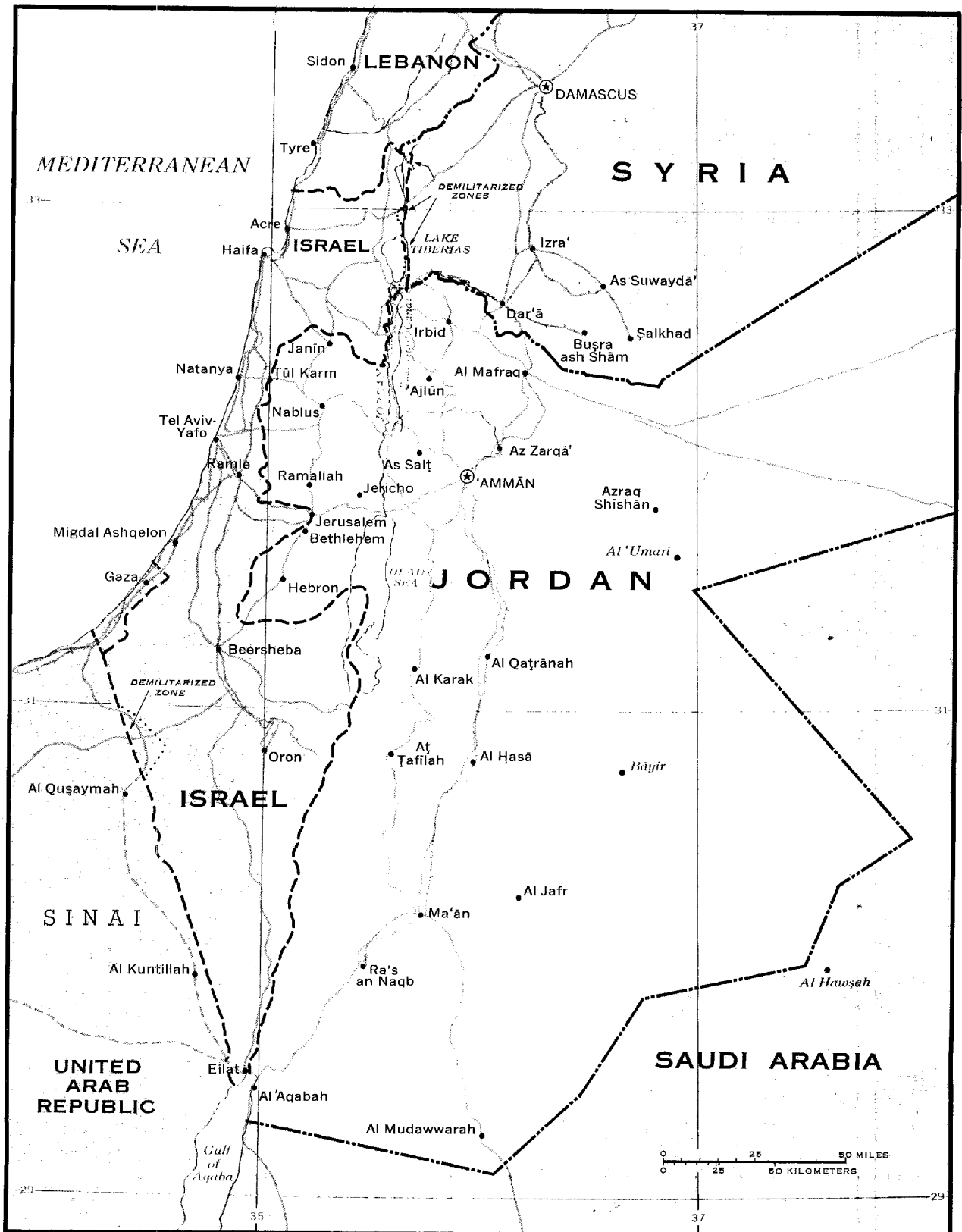
Palestinian West Jordan

Summary

Palestinian west Jordan--2,100 square miles of hilly plateau between the west bank of the Jordan River and the Dead Sea on the east and the Israeli frontier on the west--was a bone of contention between Israel's Arab neighbors even during the Arab-Israeli War of 1948-49 when these neighbors ostensibly were allies. From the time of Jordan's formal annexation of the area in 1950 it has been a thorn in the side of the Amman government because its Palestinian inhabitants have never fully accepted Amman's authority.

West Jordan is both a bone of contention and a thorn because it is Palestinian and therefore a focal point of Arab hostility toward Israel. For radical Arab Palestinians it is the territorial base which they must use to recapture their lost lands in Israel and the nucleus for an eventual independent Palestinian state. The problem for King Husayn has been to restrain these radical Palestinians without antagonizing them to the point where they would openly revolt. Husayn's problem was greatly exacerbated by Israel's 13 November 1966 raid into west Jordan; the raid exposed his de facto modus vivendi with Israel as a failure and thus revived Palestinian antagonism toward his rule.

NOTE: This memorandum was produced by the Central Intelligence Agency's Office of Current Intelligence.



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